

NEIGHBORHOOD SLOW STREETS

Traffic Calming Tool: Speed Hump



*The City of Boston only installs speed humps with gradual rise.
We never use speed bumps, like those you may find in parking lots or along private streets.*

When designed and spaced properly, speed humps are the most effective measure to slow traffic speeds. Distributed evenly throughout the traffic-calmed zone, they keep drivers' speeds consistent and slow.

Design

Speed humps are typically 12 to 14 feet long, gradually rising to 4 inches in height. Bicyclists and drivers going 20 to 25 MPH travel comfortably over speed humps. Because speed humps also taper toward curbs, they do not impact drainage or on-street parking.

Placement

Speed humps function best when placed in a series, approximately 300 to 600 feet apart from each other. This helps keep driving speeds consistent and reduces the noise from braking and accelerating. They are signed and marked so that all drivers, including snowplow operators, know to expect them. Speed humps should not be too close to intersections or peak in the middle of someone's driveway.

Considerations

When speed humps are not evenly distributed along a route, drivers' speeds between humps can become much higher. If speed humps are placed along just one route, traffic impacts will be transferred to other routes. Emergency vehicles are slowed between 2 and 9 seconds per raised device.